

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 19-24 are amended and claims 25-34 are added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

FORMAL MATTERS

The Office Action objects to claims 11-14 as lacking antecedent basis for “the first and second reception parts.” By this Amendment, claim 11 is amended to depend from claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 1-11 AND 16-24 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 and 16-24 under 35 USC § 103(a) over White (U.S. Patent 3, 520,568) in view of Chioffi (U.S. Patent 6,082,787). Because even the combination of these references fails to disclose or suggest all the features of the rejected claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a dryer which includes an apparatus for opening/closing the door. Claim 1 recites that the apparatus for opening/closing the door includes a hook provided at one side of the door of the dryer, a latch body provided on the housing, a pair of holders provided to confront each other in the latch body, a pair of springs provided at the rear of the holders, and a pair of support members provided on the latch body. Claim 11 further recites that each of the

support members is configured to support a rear portion of one of the springs so that the springs remain stable as the holders move.

The White reference fails to disclose or suggest any type of apparatus for opening/closing a door as recited in claim 1.

Chioffi discloses an opening and closing mechanism for the door of an appliance which includes a pair of holders which confront one another and which engage a latch member on a door of the appliance. As shown in Figures 3 and 6 of Chioffi, holders 8, 9 are biased towards a closed position by two springs 10, 11. The rear end of the springs bear against walls of the latch body. However, no support structure is provided around the rear end of the springs to support the springs.

Because neither White nor Chioffi disclose or suggest an apparatus which includes the claimed pair of support members, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-11 and 16-24 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. In addition, the dependent claims recite additional features which are also not shown or suggested by White or Chioffi. For instance, claim 21 recites that each of the support members prevents a corresponding spring from fluctuating and lifts the rear portion of a corresponding spring to a predetermined height. Claim 22 recites that each support member matches the center of a spring to that of a corresponding holder. Claim 23 recites that each support member comprises a pair of vertical ribs installed at sides of a spring. Claim 24 recites that each support member comprises a horizontal rib installed beneath the spring. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also allowable for these additional reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 and 16-24 is respectfully requested.

CLAIM 14 IS ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 14 under 35 USC § 103(a) over White in view of Chioffi, and further in view of Cravener (U.S. Patent 2,489,864). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and includes all the features of claim 1. As discussed above, White and Chioffi fail to disclose or suggest a dryer having all the features of claim 1. Cravener fails to cure the deficiencies of White and Chioffi. Specifically, Cravener also fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus for opening/closing a door having the support members recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is allowable over White, Chioffi and Cravener. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 is respectfully requested.

CLAIM 15 IS ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) over White, in view of Chioffi, and further in view of Fleming (U.S. Patent 4,480,862). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 depends from claim 1 and includes all the features of claim 1. As discussed above, White and Chioffi fail to disclose or suggest a dryer having the support members recited in claim 1. Fleming fails to cure this deficiency of White and Chioffi. For at least this reason, it

is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is also allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

CLAIMS 1-9, 11-17 and 19-24 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19-24 under 35 USC § 103(a) over White, in view of Saunders (U.S. Patent 2,869,952). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, White fails to disclose or suggest a dryer which includes the claimed pair of support members recited in claim 1. Saunders also fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 1. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-9, 11-17 and 19-24 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. In addition, the dependent claims recite additional features which are also not shown or suggested by Saunders. For instance, claims 21-24 recite many additional features, which are discussed above, which are also not shown or suggested by Saunders. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are also allowable for these additional reasons.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9, 11-17 and 19-24 is respectfully requested.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-24 of the present application under the judicially created doctrine of obvious type double patenting over claims 1 and 4-29 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/720,394. This application has now matured into U.S. Patent

6,954,992. In addition, the Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-24 of the present application under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1 and 4-29 of Application No. 10/721,340.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 now recites a pair of support members which are not recited in any of the claims of the two cited applications. Further, it is respectfully submitted that the support members recited in claim 1 of the present application would not have been obvious in view of the subject matter claimed in the other applications. For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the provisional double patenting rejections is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIMS 25-34

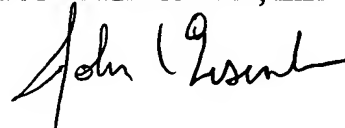
By this Amendment, claims 25-34 are added to the application. Claims 25 and 26 ultimately depend from claim 1. Claim 27 is a new independent claim. Claims 28-34 depend from new independent claim 27. It is respectfully submitted that the new claims are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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